

CLAIMS:

1. A method for operating a user-interactive multi-device audio-video system that contains user speech recognizing facilities and echo canceling facilities for avoiding the recognizing of speech output from the system as user speech,

characterized in that in the presence of plural and functionally separate such
5 speech recognizing facilities and echo canceling facilities, driving the echo canceling facilities to combine their forces for by one or more thereof canceling one or more mutually unique cancelable speech entities and combining such cancelled entities for overall non-recognition by the system.

10 2. A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein such combining operates by arranging various echo canceling facilities in series (Figures 6, 7).

15 3. A method as claimed in Claim 2, and from said series arrangement feeding the speech recognizing facility in a centralized manner (Figure 6).

4. A method as claimed in Claim 2, and from said series arrangement feeding various speech recognizing facilities in a distributed manner (Figure 7).

20 5. A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein such combining operates by centralizing said echo canceling facilities in the system and therefrom feeding various speech recognizing facilities in a distributed manner (Figure 4).

25 6. A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein such combining operates by centralizing said echo canceling facilities and speech recognizing facilities in a joint control facility (Figure 5).

7. A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein such combining operates by arranging various echo canceling facilities in a centralized control device (Figure 4) and therefrom feeding various speech recognizing facilities in parallel.

8. A multi-device audio-video system that contains speech recognizing facilities and echo canceling facilities for avoiding the recognizing of speech output from the system as user speech,

characterized in that in the presence of plural and functionally separate such speech recognizing facilities and echo canceling facilities, the echo canceling facilities are arranged to combine their forces through joint canceling means for canceling one or more mutually unique cancelable speech entities and combining means for combining such cancelled entities for overall non-recognition by the system.

9. A system as claimed in Claim 8, wherein such combining means include a serial arrangement that arranges various echo canceling facilities in series (Figures 6, 7).

10. A system as claimed in Claim 9, arranged for from said series arrangement feeding the speech recognizing facility in a centralized manner (Figure 6).

11. A system as claimed in Claim 9, arranged for from said series arrangement feeding various speech recognizing facilities in a distributed manner (Figure 7).

12. A system as claimed in Claim 8, wherein such combining means have said echo canceling facilities centralized in a control device and are arranged for feeding various speech recognizing facilities in a distributed manner (Figure 4).

13. A system as claimed in Claim 8, wherein such combining means are arranged for centralizing said echo canceling facilities and speech recognizing facilities in a joint control facility (Figure 5).

14. A system as claimed in Claim 8, wherein such combining means are arranged for centralizing various echo canceling facilities (Figure 4) and therefrom feeding various speech recognizing facilities in parallel.

15. A speech enhanced device for use in a system as claimed in Claim 8 and having speech recognizing facilities and echo canceling facilities for avoiding the recognizing of speech output from the device as user speech,

being characterized by having speech input/output means interposed between said interconnected speech recognizing and echo canceling facilities, for intercoupling another such device.

- 5 16. A device as claimed in Claim 15, and having control means for selectively disabling one or more of said speech-recognizing facilities, said echo canceling facilities and audio output facilities of the device.

- 10 17. A device as claimed in Claim 15, and having microphone out means and furthermore control means for selectively controlling one or more of said speech recognizing facilities, said echo canceling facilities, and said microphone out means.

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